GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2226
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
TEHRI DAM PROJECT
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the views expressed in the report, ` Soviet Assessment of the Tehri Dam Project` that a foundation width of 1500 metres will securely keep the dam on its feet and will not allow it to tumble down;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since widened the base width of the Tehri Dam;

(c) if so, the extent to which the cost of construction has increased by widening the base width from the present 1100 metres to 1500 metres; and

(d) if not, the reasons for leaving the dam exposed to seismicity due to which the dam may collapse any moment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : A Press Report that appeared in the Lucknow Edition of the`Times of India` dated 16.11.1998 stated that Soviet Seismologists had recommended a foundation breadth of 1500m. This Report was contradicted by the then USSR authorities that the opinion attributed to Soviet specialists did not conform to reality. It was also stated that Soviet experts had confirmed that structure of Tehri Dam was sound.

The Government had considered in depth the seismic safety aspectof the Tehri Dam before according approval to the implementation of Tehri Dam and HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) in March, 1994.

A Group of Experts was constituted in June, 1996 to furtherexamine the issue of safety of Tehri Dam. This Group in its report concluded that the design of the dam was safe to withstand the Maximum Credible Earthquake.